

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington D.C. 20554

### Comments on Morse Code Testing Requirement for Amateur Radio Operators

I am in favor of the removal of the requirement for Element 1 testing in the amateur radio service.

While I do understand that at one time this was a very valid requirement for an operator to have knowledge and proficiency in this mode of operation, I feel that with the advances in technology that this mode while still valuable should no longer be a requirement for the granting of operating privileges within the amateur bands. The requirement to demonstrate proficiency in one specific mode of operation does not go far in showing that the individual is qualified to do anything more than that one specific mode. In fact makes no more sense to require the applicant for an amateur license to pass that specific element than it would to require all applicants to pass a test covering RTTY, or PSK, or SLOW SCAN TV.

The requirements to pass a written test for each level of operating privileges should remain as they currently are with the levels remaining as Technician, General, and Extra. The only change that should be made to the current testing requirements would be the immediate elimination of the requirement for passing Element 1 Morse Code testing. As in the past, the grandfathering of those individuals that currently hold valid privileges should remain as they currently are granted and the change of dropping the Element 1 test should be applied to all applicants after the effective date of such a change. I would also support a requirement that all existing license holders be required to transition to one of the current three levels of privileges at the time of their next renewal. This would allow the FCC to eliminate many of the old classes and transition into a more easily managed database of just the three remaining classes of privileges.

As for the current band plans that are in place I would support no changes being made to any of the existing band plans. To maintain them in the form that they are currently in would only encourage those that are in favor of Morse code to continue using it and at the same time allow those that are not fond of Morse code to both enjoy the benefits of amateur radio and to allow the readily available pool of operators that both have the equipment and the knowledge to continue to grow so that in a time of need there would be an even greater pool of people in our country that would be ready to step up to help with communications in the time of an emergency.

Please, respectfully consider the removal of the Element One testing requirement at the earliest possible time.

Respectfully

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